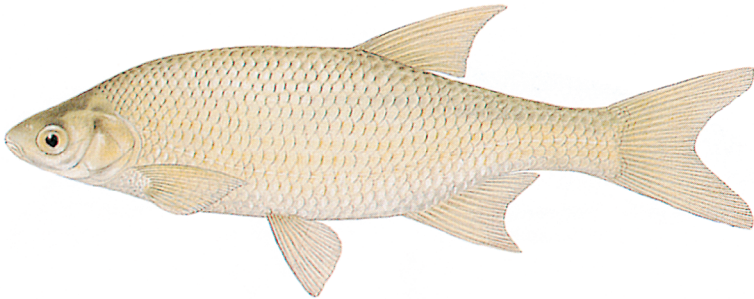


Golden shiner

Notemigonus crysoleucas



Similar Species: European rudd

Identification: No barbels, lateral line droops along body and is not straight, outer margin of anal (bottom hind) fin concave. (European rudd have bright red fins while golden shiners lack such fin color.)

Golden shiners are widely distributed in the central and eastern U.S. They prefer clear, vegetated habitat in wetlands, ponds, lakes, impoundments, and slow-moving streams. In South Dakota, golden shiners are common in ponds and lakes where they serve as food for larger predators. Culture of golden shiners is common because they are a popular bait fish and are often stocked into ponds. The European rudd is a European minnow that resembles golden shiners and is also cultured for bait. If largemouth bass are present, golden shiners are likely to persist only if the pond contains abundant aquatic vegetation. Golden shiners feed on algae and higher plants, as well as insects and snails. Unlike the common shiner, the golden shiner does not prepare a spawning nest or guard its eggs. Adult golden shiners average 3 to 5 inches, although they can reach 10 to 12 inches.

